ANNUAL REPORT 1971

library development commission

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LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

REPORT

for the

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31

1971

R. D. FERGUSON, Vancouver, *Chairman*
H. M. BOYCE, Vancouver
MRS. J. CHADWICK, North Vancouver (appointed in April)
R. J. CULOS, Burnaby
PETER GROSSMAN, West Vancouver (appointed in December)
E. C. ROPER, Vancouver (resigned in October)

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1972

104-04671/

VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, January 1972.

To Colonel the Honourable JOHN R. NICHOLSON, P.C., O.B.E., Q.C., LL.D.
Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of British Columbia.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR:

The Annual Report of the Library Development Commission for the year ended March 31, 1971, is herewith respectfully submitted.

W. D. BLACK
Provincial Secretary

VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, January 1972.

The Honourable W. D. Black,
Provincial Secretary, Victoria, British Columbia.

SIR: In accordance with the provisions of the *Public Libraries Act*, I have the honour to submit the Report of the Library Development Commission for the year ended March 31, 1971.

R. L. DAVISON
Director, Library Development Commission

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

April 1, 1970, to March 31, 1971

HEADQUARTERS, VICTORIA

Director: R. L. DAVISON

Staff

MRS. M. B. STROUTS

MRS. D. L. M. WIKSYK

FIELD CONSULTANT SERVICE

MISS M. E. LEASK, Victoria

MRS. A. A. SIMPSON, New Westminster

LIBRARY SERVICE

Librarian: MRS. M. J. MITCHELL

Librarian, Adult Services: MISS J. H. BUCHANAN

Catalogue Librarian: MISS M. R. MORLEY

Supervisor, Children's Services: MRS. K. B. MORROW

Supervisor, Travelling Libraries: J. R. HENDERSON

Staff:

MRS. E. E. CURRIER
MISS P. J. DOBBYN
MRS. W. MACDONALD
MISS J. M. MCRAE
(resigned September 1970)
MISS L. M. T. OUELLETTE
MISS C. M. SMITH
(resigned January 1971)
MRS. H. L. ROBINSON
R. A. STEPHENSON
MISS K. M. TAIT
MISS J. A. THORNELOE

NORTH CENTRAL BRANCH, PRINCE GEORGE

Branch Librarian: MISS P. E. BOWLBY

Staff:

MRS. J. A. BAECKMANN, *Librarian*
MRS. K. M. BURNETT
MISS J. D. GREENLEY
MISS Y. E. HOUGHTALING
MRS. L. J. STOLBERG

PEACE RIVER BRANCH, DAWSON CREEK

Branch Librarian: W. H. OVEREND

Staff:

MISS S. CONNER, *Librarian*
MISS J. M. CONNELLY
MRS. J. D. FOSTER
MRS. D. M. OLSON
(resigned August 1970)
F. NEUBAUER
MISS G. G. PETERS
MISS A. L. PRYKE
(resigned June 1970)
MISS E. E. TRITTHARDT

EAST KOOTENAY BRANCH, CRANBROOK

Branch Librarian: MRS. HELEN GORDON

Staff:

MISS C. M. HOPKINS
MRS. I. B. MURRELL
MRS. M. A. PENNER
(resigned May 1970)

Report of the Library Development Commission for the Year Ended March 31, 1971

It was a year of preparation.

Consultant Alice Simpson had just been appointed Co-ordinator for the British Columbia Centennial Citizens' Conference, to be held in Victoria on May 3, 1971, and was deep in the plans that were to occupy her and her assistant throughout the year.

The committee appointed to draw up a proposed plan for library development in the '70's was getting under way with meetings that would occupy them through the next 12 months and beyond.

The Commission was busy with its own plans, which included establishing an office on the Lower Mainland. This was done in April, when the consultant service moved into bright new quarters on Sixth Street in New Westminster. Accommodation prospects were further improved late in the year when funds were released to pay for the new branch building in Prince George. By March of 1971 the North Central Staff, the Director, and Public Works architects were busy revising two-year-old blueprints.

Provision for a new chapter in the story of Provincial aid was also in the works. To prepare library boards for the changes to come, the Commission issued a series of three bulletins early in the fiscal year. These bulletins were in fact policy statements dealing with the ways in which Provincial grants for library purposes could in future be earned rather than simply handed out. It was a matter of some comfort to those library boards who would manage to qualify for maximum assistance that the Legislature in February approved a 20-per-cent increase in the allocation of funds, giving the Commission authority to disburse $600,000 in grants during the next fiscal year.

Emphasis continues to be placed on plans to build up larger units of service, to be accomplished by integration of independent library units into library systems, based on the regional district as the political and financial unit of service. Service areas will consist of groups of regional districts that will provide the population and the tax base to make a library system practicable. The working-out of a plan for a Province-wide network of library service will be the chief task of the Committee on Library Development.

In preparation for the network concept in library service, the Commission has published two brochures, one describing the aims, objectives, and work of the Commission in its relation to the public libraries of the Province, and the other explaining a centralized library system, its organization, its operation, its financial structure, and its advantages.

Plans for a Province-wide network have already suffered one temporary setback and moved a step forward in another area. By November the hopes for a Peace River system that had looked so promising the year before were flagging. This was to have been the first system in the new plan, an outgrowth of the Commission's branch operations established in 1946, but it bogged down in 1970 over a gap between the Commission's basic demand for local support and the Regional District Board's idea of the limits of taxation in the rural areas. Since the two agencies

agreed on the level of service to be established, there may still be hope for the Peace River to have the pioneer system if disparity in the approaches to tax support can be overcome.

The forward step was initiated in December by the Committee on Library Development through a recommendation that the Commission carry out a study of the public libraries in the Greater Vancouver Regional District, their resources, personnel, and services, with a view to the development of a Greater Vancouver Regional District library system. The Commission agreed and this one regional district was singled out for special study and planning. Plans were made for an independent consultant to conduct the study and bring in a report in the fall of 1971.

Earlier in the year, there had been a new development in the Vancouver area. In September 1970, after some four months of study, there was formed the Lower Mainland Public Libraries Co-ordinating Committee, a combination of the board chairman and director of each library and representatives of the Commission, with the Commission's consultant as secretary. Most of the committee's work so far has been exploratory, but its objective will most certainly be the implementation of system service throughout the Greater Vancouver area.

The Commission's newsletter, *Library Developments*, has just completed its second year of regular publication, and the Training Programme for Community Librarians is preparing for its second week-long workshop in Vancouver for the successful candidates. Both ventures are under the guidance of consultant Mary Leask. Twenty new students have been accepted for training, and by the end of 1971 there should be 23 practising graduates who, incidentally, will be earning personnel grants for their boards to the tune of $20,000 gross expenditure. The success of the course has moved one of the Commission's branch heads to comment:

"The results of the correspondence course are beginning to manifest themselves in an extremely gratifying fashion. Four of our community librarians took the course last year, and four more are in the process. Even though these people are not involved to any extent in a few of the subjects studied, their awareness that completely processed books don't appear in their libraries by magic makes the work of the Headquarters staff a little more rewarding. Most encouraging is the feeling of co-operation among the librarians, previously almost nonexistent, owing to their virtual isolation from one another. The value of the course, and especially the workshop, is inestimable."

For the past few years there has been some concern within the Commission that its part in the development and extension of public library services was not generally apprehended and that it was not doing enough to bring its existence and its work to public attention. Resolved to remedy this condition, the Commission appointed its own public relations committee under the chairmanship of Commissioner Culos to consider various ways in which the nature of the Commission's responsibilities and the extent of its accomplishments could be publicized and to propose to the Commission a sound public relations programme. It is expected that this will be done within the next fiscal year.

Inevitably, changes in Commission membership must be recorded. Following the retirement of Mrs. Daphne Parr in March 1970, Mrs. Joyce Chadwick was appointed in April. In October, Commissioner Roper had reluctantly to announce that pressure of other business would prevent his accepting reappointment. In his place the Lieutenant-Governor in Council appointed Mr. Peter Grossman, a little more than half way through the year. Mrs. Chadwick is a former chairman of the

library board of the City of North Vancouver. Mr. Grossman, who received an honorary doctorate from Dalhousie University in March, was until his retirement last year the Director of the Vancouver Public Library.

REPORTS FROM THE COMMISSION'S BRANCHES

North Central (Prince George)

When we think about the past year in connection with libraries, one word comes immediately to mind. This word is "regionalization." We have thought about it, encouraged it, advertised it, dreamed about it, and talked about it to anyone willing to listen. Most people were, and most people agreed that systems are the only solution to the problem of inadequate library service. However, complete regionalization of a Province as large as British Columbia cannot occur overnight, so this will be a lengthy process. Some areas are far from ready to make a move, while others could adapt almost immediately. The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George has indicated not only a willingness to add library service to its other functions, but a desire to. We now await necessary changes in legislation to allow for combinations of regional districts to assume responsibility for regional district libraries.

We are pleased to welcome the town of Fraser Lake to the fold. This addition brings our North Central Associated Libraries membership to 10, and we expect at least two more applications within the next year. We reported last year that Burns Lake and Fort St. James had new libraries approved as Provincial Centennial projects. We are now pleased to report that Fraser Lake and Vanderhoof have been added to the list. Valemount's building is far from adequate, but we understand that the Municipal Council is taking a serious look at the situation. The remaining five public library associations had new buildings in 1967, so there should be no worry in that direction for the next while.

This year was one of general progress and activity for the associations. Most book budgets and salaries increased in the wake of growth of membership and circulation. Four community librarians took advantage of the correspondence course, and their library boards now benefit not only from their training but from additional financial support from the Government. Four others who began the course in September will participate in the workshop to be held next June.

Three libraries now have card catalogues complete or nearing completion, and three more will get under way next year. Our small staff is hard-pressed to keep up with the ever-increasing demands made upon it.

Two extra-curricular projects slated for the year were completed—compilation of juvenile nonfiction subject catalogues, and Project Refile. The latter was begun with the advent of the new American Library Association rules for filing catalogue cards, and completed during the summer.

Our new headquarters building seems to have gone back to the drawing-board, with October 2 of next year mentioned as the completion date. We would be more interested in hearing about sod-turning ceremonies, although we are appreciative of the fact that the idea has not been scrapped indefinitely, as we had suspected.

The over-all library picture is still far from bright, but much progress has been made during the year. We are grateful to the many people who have assisted us in various ways. Our own staff deserve a sincere vote of thanks for doing a superior job under inferior conditions.

Peace River (Dawson Creek)

The year ending March 31, 1971, in the Peace has been one of great activity but little forward motion. With a regional district library the goal, the Peace River Branch has very busily moved a little closer but has not made significant headway.

Last year's report said that the Board of the Peace River Regional District had approved in principle the Commission's library plan. This year's report affirms that the Board's proposed method of financing its share of regional district library costs, devised in October, has not yet received approval by appropriate authorities in Victoria. While this is progress of a sort, the goal itself has not been reached.

Between reports was the local activity which has been heavy and varied during the year. It has included an annual meeting of the Peace River Associated Libraries and a workshop, both at Hudson Hope in May, a well-attended workshop in Dawson Creek in October, a prize-winning four-way entry in the Dawson Creek fall fair parade, extensive weeding of adult nonfiction and children's picture book stock at the Branch, weeding at Cassiar and Fort Nelson, manufacture of shelving for various area libraries, and a rapid increase in the number of community libraries served by the Branch.

Bookmobile service, halted for the summer, was not started in the fall because of the severe staff shortage. There were three vacancies at the time. Existing bookmobile stops were converted to community libraries, whose number at year's end reached 54, 26 more than last year's total. Much of the increase came during the annual trip in September to Alaska Highway points, made memorable by the penetration of the Stikine country as far south as the remote log-cabin settlement of Eddontenajon. The bookmobile was used for the trip and local people selected community library books directly from its shelves.

In September the Branch Librarian and Assistant Librarian collaborated in editing a special northern issue of the *British Columbia Library Quarterly*. This work was undertaken as a publicity venture to let other librarians know about the northern part of the Province and about the Commission's services there. Starting in November the same collaborators present "Book Talk," a weekly radio programme of short book reviews. This was in addition to both the weekly half-hour television programme "The World of Books" and the column "Talking of Books and Libraries" which appears in two weekly newspapers. If northern people are not aware of the Library Development Commission, it is hardly the fault of its Peace River staff.

To offset the relative isolation or loneliness of librarianship in northern British Columbia, the Branch Librarian attended the annual conference of the British Columbia Library Association held at Castlegar in May, participated in an Alberta Government library workshop at Grande Prairie in October, attended the fall meeting of BCLA in Burnaby in November, and a few days later visited the headquarters of the Vancouver Island Regional Library in Nanaimo.

Facilities and services in Peace libraries are improving. The *Quantitative Standards for Public Libraries* and the new requirements for qualifying for Provincial grants, together with prodding and direction from Commission personnel, have combined to give both trustees and community librarians greater awareness of their role and their potential.

The library correspondence course has already proved its worth and, certainly, when integrated regionalization does take place the transition will be easier for it.

Having failed early in 1970 in its bid for a new Centennial library building, the Dawson Creek public library board has had a quiet year. It did add to its audio-visual equipment, however, a new record-player with radio, speakers, and earphones, a supply of records, slides, film strips, and film-strip projector. At year's end there were municipal indications of approval for a new building, but these were conditional on the formation of the regional district library system.

Although all Peace libraries (for example, signs and decorations at Fort St. John and Hudson Hope, and new lights at Pouce Coupe) showed visual improvement during the year, the most striking instance was at Fort Nelson in March 1971.

Commission field workers, comprising the Branch Librarian, the Assistant, and the Bookmobile driver, literally transformed the library in a period of two days, rearranging the books, adding new island shelving, setting up displays, installing a paperback rack, reorganizing the reference section, hanging mobiles, and mounting brightly coloured, easily seen signs. The Fort Nelson sub-branch library in the basement of the Provincial Government building is now one of the most attractive, best-stocked libraries of its size in the Province.

When the thrust forward to regionalization eventually comes, the Peace River Branch will be ready.

East Kootenay (Cranbrook)

That the East Kootenay Branch survived this most memorable year, short-staffed and ill-housed, was due to the fact that many hours of overtime were expended by staff members. However, despite the shortage of help, we were able to assist our libraries in meeting the standards required and to increase our book output, with a rise in the actual number of books circulated over the previous year.

Our Director met with our seven library boards in September, and during this three-day visit new agreements of service were discussed and finalized. The results of the discussions and exchanges at this time have been a realization by the individual boards and other personnel involved that libraries are only as good as the local interest aroused by the local boards will make them. In other words, enthusiastic hard-working boards equal excellent library service.

Marysville Public Library has become a branch of the Kimberley Public Library with the amalgamation of the two districts at the end of the year. However, because of the distances in the area served, they will operate as independent libraries for the present.

Creston Public Library has entered into an agreement with the regional district to provide library service on a contract basis to persons living outside the town's municipal area. This means their library will serve the second-largest population in our service area.

Two new community libraries were opened in the mountain areas, north and south, at Glacier and Elkford.

Our population is still rising, and if we are to keep ahead of demand, and up to our own standards, we shall need increased staff and funds in the year ahead to bring improved library service to this area.

THE COMMISSION'S LIBRARY SERVICE, APRIL 1, 1970, TO MARCH 31, 1971

I. Open Shelf

	Head-quarters (Victoria)	North Central (Prince George)	Peace River (Dawson Creek)				East Kootenay (Cranbrook)	Grand Total
			Head-quarters	Book-mobile	Fort Nelson	Total		
Circulation								
Adult	34,864	8,484	2,376	1,118	8,331	11,825	1,409	56,582
Juvenile	32,075	1,910	2,349	1,353	5,061	8,763	797	43,545
Total	66,939	10,394	4,725	2,471	13,392	20,588	2,206	100,127
Last year	74,516	9,767	5,472	10,367	11,019	26,858	2,097	113,238
Borrowers Registered								
Adult	6,842	710	14	.....	686	700	101	8,353
Juvenile	4,982	333	88	.....	637	725	88	6,128
Total	11,824	1,043	102	331	1,323	1,425	189	14,481
Last year	9,185	887	86		258	675	202	10,949
Bookstock (Open Shelf and Travelling Libraries)								
Total volumes—								
Adult	83,968	53,067			36,390		24,270	197,695
Juvenile	47,819	28,907			17,157		21,342	115,225
Total	131,787	81,974			53,547		45,612	312,920
Last year—								
Adult	81,845	47,092			55,831		22,639	207,407
Juvenile	45,622	25,979			21,039		20,218	112,858
Total	127,467	73,071			76,870		42,857	320,265

THE COMMISSION'S LIBRARY SERVICE, APRIL 1, 1970, TO MARCH 31, 1971—*Continued*

II. Travelling Libraries

Delivered to—	Headquarters (Victoria)	North Central (Prince George)	Peace River (Dawson Creek)	East Kootenay (Cranbrook)	Grand Total
Public Library Associations—					
Collections	45	47	21	417	530
Volumes	7,375	8,777	9,323	15,464	40,939
Communities—					
Collections	226	72	133	45	476
Volumes	24,445	23,265	15,107	7,688	70,505
Total—					
Collections	271	119	154	462	1,006
Volumes	31,820	32,042	24,430	23,152	111,444
Last year—					
Collections	282	117	169	451	1,019
Volumes	32,579	26,416	18,484	21,500	98,979

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION EXPENDITURE, APRIL 1, 1970, TO MARCH 31, 1971

	$
Salaries	208,301
Office expense, equipment, supplies	13,892
Travelling expense (staff and vehicles)	10,018
Printing and publications	2,053
Books, binding, and periodicals	92,114
Transportation	1,125
Extension services	3,466
Freight	6,592
Total	337,561

Grants to libraries and library associations, $500,000.

Printed by K. M. MacDonald, Printer to the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty in right of the Province of British Columbia.
1972

630-272-632

LITHOGRAPHED IN CANADA BY K. M. MacDONALD, QUEEN'S PRINTER, VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA